

# DIRECT ACTION

SYNDICALIST WORKERS FEDERATION no. 6

5p

British Section of the International Workers Association

## FEWER HANDS MAKE MORE MONEY

History shows us that every time there's a 'slump' (the in word today is recession) that the 'Employing Class' does two things. One: It takes its profits and invests them in any part of the World except their own country wherein those profits will make more money. Two: It uses this period of economic stagnation to weaken the strength of the organised 'Working Class'. It is a case of no holds barred for the Capitalist at times like these.

Through Parliamentary pressure groups (both Labour and Conservative) they try to bring in repressive anti-working class legislation, Incomes Policies etc. but fight like hell against any attempt to cut back distribution of profits and dividends. At one and the same time Employers will invite Government Loans, and try to cut the work-force. The 'fortunate' workers who are still left in employment are of course expected to bring out the same production, if not more.

This policy of using the strength of the Establishment against the entire working class is reinforced at shop floor level by an all out attack on militant sections or individual militants of the work force.

Both these forms of action can be seen to be operating at the moment. Heath's Government had no difficulty in finding a Judge to send the 'Shrewsbury Two' down to a stiff and undeserved sentence. The right wing of the Labour Party just as easily squashed an attempt by left Labour members to have the unjust conviction debated in Parliament.

The Trades Union leadership has both eyes firmly fixed on the Company Directorships which it expects to be theirs in the near future as their reward for curbing the rank and file union membership. Under the proposed Worker participation Bill, Workers Directors would be drawn from the ranks of Union officials. One more boss whose main task would be to discipline the workers for



the Employers. They will have a vested interest in maintaining a docile membership. Some Unions are already restructuring their organisation to this end. One method is to make an agreement with the Employers to deduct Union contributions from wages which if the practice becomes universal will mean that Branch attendance will fall away to the extent where they can be abolished and thus remove what little control the rank and file has over the paid officials.

### sabotage

KIRKBY  
MERIDEN

Top officials at the Treasury are doing their utmost to sabotage the Worker Co-operative movement. Whilst British Leyland has no difficulty in obtaining the money granted to them. The Meriden Motorcycle Co-operative has had their Export Credit Guarantee held up while the Treasury obtain an up to date viability report. If the go ahead is not given soon the present agreement between Villiers, the Unions concerned and the motorcycle workers might well fall through.

At the Kirkby Co-operative the Government cash is paid in quarterly instalments subject to Government vetting. Pressure is already being put on the Workers management to create another hundred redundancies. The workforce has already dropped from the original 1,200 to 850 employed at present.

# ULSTER

For Syndicalists Ulster has become a tragedy. It is a tragedy in the political, economic, social sense but most of all, in the loss of human lives. The bombings and shootings of the sectarian divide are really only a power game of those who pose as the defenders and champions of the religious communities. But have these self-styled leaders any real support from the people of their respective communities? At this late stage it seems very unlikely. What the mass of people really crave for is an end to the killings.

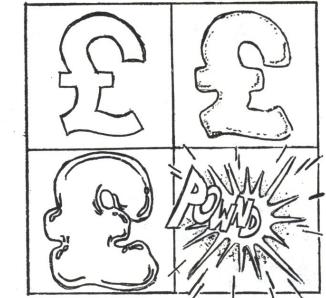
We are informed by most left wing groupings that the struggles taking place in Ulster are anti-imperialist. That the "Brits" have to be kicked out and the six counties become one with the rest of Eire. While this maybe the nationalist dream of many in the past, the political, the economic and even the religious changes that have taken place make this assumption a very doubtful one. What the catholics of Ulster want is an end to the discrimination practised against them by the successive protestant administrations. Catholics were second class citizens when it came to housing and jobs. While some may have had a nationalist and religious yearning to join catholic Eire, really it was the discrimination practiced against them that they abhorred. Anyway, why would anyone in their right senses, want to join a nation state which had itself failed to solve its own economic problems and who's main export had been for years its labour force. Even catholics are reluctant to leave behind the economic benefits of Ulster rather than have the lack of discrimination but the possible poverty of the Papal state of Eire.

The same applies to the protestant members of the community. Why should they have to become a part of Eire? But the violence of the I.R.A. and the U.V.F. has driven a wedge between the two communities. Both of these organisations have thrived on the death and destruction they have caused.

What the catholics needed was not death and destruction, but civil rights. It was the starting of this campaign which really had a good chance of success. It did not divide the communities but tried, with some success to bring together all who were discriminated against, the working class of Ulster. For the protestant worker his only consolation was that he was marginally better off than his catholic counterpart. But while this might have been so, Ulster has for years suffered under the discrimination meted out by governments at Westminster. Ulster has always been one of the worst areas of the United Kingdom for unemployment. So while the working class of Ulster were religiously divided, the employers and the politicians had it all their own way. The violence of the bigots were concerned with outdated political form-

ulas than with improving the social and economic position of the people of Ulster. Whether the struggle will return to the grass roots, with people taking an active part remains to be seen. But the bullet and bomb battle will not give power to the people. It will mean yet another solution of leaders with both the religious and political scoundrels scrambling to power. That will be an imposed solution under which the exploitation of the working class will continue.

P.T.



INF

# LATION

We are always hearing in the Tory press and on the television that workers wage demands are responsible for inflation. Sometimes one would think that Britain is the only country in the world to suffer from this economic disease.

Let's look at one country abroad which has suffered massive inflation, Uruguay. The military took power 18 months ago. Last year was disastrous for the Uruguayan economy, the prospects for this year look no better. The trade deficit was 120 million dollars, an increase of 80% over 1973. Inflation was running at 100% last year, while wages rose by 40%. The commercial activity of the country is at a very low level, due to the cut in purchasing power. Workers wages now barely cover food and rent.

Unemployment has rocketed, emigration has soared. It is estimated that up to 500,000 have left during the last few years. Many of these are the skilled workers and technicians.

All this has taken place in a country where the Labour Movement has been smashed. There are over 4,000 political prisoners in the jails. The army can crush the left, but can't stop inflation.

The lessons we can draw from this situation are obvious. Unions and wage demands do not cause inflation. In fact, wage demands are an effect of inflation.

This is something we should remember when we hear the muttering of the privileged, and the usual right-wing talk of the unions ruining the economy. The army may be able to make the railways run on time but they can't beat inflation, even if they forcibly suppress the unions and make thousands unemployed.

# WORK STUDY



## freedom

The Anarchist Weekly Paper.  
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London. E.1.  
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At a meeting held at Jubilee Hall, Dukinfield on the 4th. Feb. 250 workers from the refuse departments of the newly created Tameside Metropolitan Borough Nr. Manchester turned down a works study scheme.

The scheme was incorporated into a plan to merge the old municipal departments and create a common wage structure.

The meeting was at first rigged to intimidate workers, anyone wishing to question the management, after they have put their case, had first to quote their name and dept. This was later dropped after protest.

It was then the turn of the local officials of the G.M.W.U. and as they usually work hand in glove with the local Labour councillors, they seemed if anything, more in favour of the scheme than the management. They first tried to bludgeon workers into accepting the scheme by threatening the dire consequences.

As the meeting progressed and the officials sensed the mood of the meeting was against them they tried to stall on the vote but the workers were adamant and the vote was carried 249 for and 1 against.

The reason for work study is to increase efficiency so as to cut costs.

But the main cost in emptying bins is manpower and, as refuse workers can't increase production i.e. there is only a fixed amount of bins to empty, that leaves only one alternative, redundancy.

Everyone knows binmen knock off early if they really rush through their round. The task of work study is to keep them rushing through their rounds but not knocking off early, sack the surplus labour and bribe the rest off with a bit of extra bonus. The bonus would probably be lost to inflation in a year or so, but the Friday afternoon off, gone forever.

Now if we look in the gutter press we sometimes read of a tory hacks writing 'its time we put these unemployed louts to work cleaning up the city'.

As someone once said, "you can fool some of the people some of the time".....

**BLACK FLAG** Organ of the Anarchist Black Cross. 13p. for a sample copy from : 83a Haverstock Hill, London N.W.3.

**WILDCAT** published monthly at 15p. Includes a four page supplement. £2 50 sub. Box 999 197 Kings Cross Rd. London WC1

# OFF OUR BACK

A call for assembly line production to be ended has been made in a report recently submitted to an international trade union conference on working conditions in the motor industry.

The report was drawn up by trade unions from Britain, Finland and Czechoslovakia. It states that unions should fight for the eventual abolition of assembly line production.

The report also suggests that there should be more breaks during shifts, and that there should be rotation of jobs between the workers.

The Boss class wants a contented working class, job alienation with its symptoms-absenteeism and the high turnover in labour have a negative effect on profits. The productivity rates are lowered when new workers must be trained often, and a whole hierarchy of supervisors are required to check and recheck the quality of the products. However, managements have always been concerned about conditions that hamper productivity, why is management acting on these problems now, and why in this way?

The union bureaucracies work hand in glove with the bosses, the officials want a quiet life just as much as the captains of industry. Alienation leads to wildcat strikes, just as it does to absenteeism. The full time negotiators shares the outlook in many ways to those of the employers.

The managers interest in profitability, in these days of increased foreign competition and inflation, fits in quite well with the unions leadership interest in a strike-free life. In response to this crisis, management must look for ways to cut costs in production, because after a certain point it becomes more difficult to pass on increased costs to the consumer.

# letter



6

Dear, Comrades,

As a reader (& seller) of D/A I was interested in your article about the miners and shit. Very Good, now lets answer some questions for you.

First my credentials I came to the pit at the late age of 17 (I tried longer but with no more success to get a job outside the mines than most lads in a pit village). To Wardley Colliery, Co. Durham were my father and grandfather had toiled the bulk of their lives. For one and a half years I crossed and recrossed Wardleys ancient faces and gates (tunnels to you) in my efforts as a face lineslad. Working with the surveyors I discovered on my own that the pit was being deliberately 'run out' i.e. worked away from new and old coal reserves which would extend the life of our colliery.

When it was officially announced that Wardley (known as Little Moscow in the 20's and 30's along with the more Westerway Chopwell Colliery) was closing I took advantage of the N.C.B.s transfer scheme and was shipped off to Yorkshire to Hatfield Colliery; next to the closed "Red Pit" of Thorne (with coal reserves to the Humber).

With the exception of six months on the murdering pit bottom of Hatfield and about 17 months at the soul destroying Ruskin College, Oxford I have been a coal face worker of one type or another for about 9 years. In answer to the questions.

There are NO TOILETS of any description down the pit which means that say 1700 men shit and piss down the mine, in and around where they work. On the surface, which is rather like a very bad factory chemical toilets exist for which very ill and sickly and old miners get paid the princely extra payment of 8p. per day for emptying them.

At the bottom of the shaft (the hole to you) the pit bottom lads shit on a sheet of newspaper, then wrap it up and dump it into a tub (waggon) going out of the mine, they piss into the 'sump' (or where the water gathers underneath the resting place of the cage at the bottom of the 'hole' or shaft).

The Material lads; blokes who cart waggons full of wooden & iron props, girders & supports 'inbye' to the face have to shit in the gates i.e. tunnels through which they will

travel everyday. A modification is to shit like the pit bottom workers and throw it into the empty tubs, (if they can wait that long) after they have unloaded the waggons.

The material gate through which all men travel who are taking in supplies, tools etc, is the worst environment in terms of shit..

About half the men who work on the face travel through the material (or tail) gate.

Workers who are laying new road, or 'back ripping' i.e. repairing the damage to the tail gate are forced to shit in the roadways where they must walk each day. To sit down 'anywhere' in the tail gate is to tempt fate and cover yourself with someone else's (or your own) shit. To the excretia might also be added your own vomit in response to the former.

The tail gate 'rippers' toil at one of the ends of the coal face, advancing the tunnels or gates. These men, again shit in the roadways through which they must pass for the length of life of that face (often years). Some other tail gate rippers can shit on a sheet of paper and throw it on the face conveyor (the moving chain or belt which takes the coal away) This is wicked for the fitters who have to repair the belt or chain when it is broken (the shit gets spread all over the chain or belt) and have to handle the pieces of equipment covered in shit.

Along the possible 200 or more yards of the face the workers shit were they are or again fling it on the chain.

In the Loader or Main gate, the rippers advancing the main or belt tunnel shit on paper (if they have any if not on a shovel) and throw it on the belt carrying the coal, again, the shit gets spread all over the belt and in the machinery of that conveyor.

That is general but if there is no paper or conveyor in which to dump your shit then you shit where you work.

By the way if there is water which their often is and a man shits in a corner, germs are transmitted by the water back to the skins of the men kneeling or lying in water. This gives rise to a horrible illness called 'MINERS WORM'. It is the penetration of germs into the flesh and muscle of the man by creatures carried in the water. It has a medical name but I can't remember it, I do know that this ailment is found only in two places coal mines and the African bush.

All the best Dave Douglass  
Hatfield Main Branch N.U.M.

## PAMPHLETS

Syndicalists in the Russian revolution  
by G.P. Maximoff  
How the Labour Governed 1945-1951.  
Lenin and Workers Control 22p.  
Hungarian workers revolution 5p.  
Workers Control 10p.  
Anarchism & Anarcho-Syndicalism 20p.  
by Rudolph Rocker.  
Franco's Prisoners  
by M. Garcia. £2.25.

The Social General Strike  
by Tom Brown is being reprinted  
orders from Direct Action.

## PRESS FUND

We Have recently acquired a new Typewriter which has cost us £100 we still owe £30 we would be most grateful if a few more people could send us some money to pay this off. Because now we have had the offer of a printing press and the sooner we pay this off the quicker we can buy the press. This is going to be the only way that we can expand as a group and get our message across to as many people as we can.

P.T. £3. D.P. £5. London. A.P. £2  
R.M. £5 A.B. £5. Manchester.  
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# FINE FUMES



7

Some thirty years ago the charnel houses of Nazi Germany were coming to an end. The world was sickened by the news of their existence. The monsters who had created these places were soon to be dispersed, some to stand trial before the War Crimes Commission.

However while one curtain was being rung down another was being raised. This revealed a new monster who was certainly not a nazi, but kind to children and animals. You'll find him in all walks of life, among scientists, managing directors, technicians.

"At the close of the second World war the number of chemicals blamed for recorded occupational diseases was about 50. Today there are estimated to be some 600,000 chemicals in daily use, and many have harmful (and sometimes little known) side effects". "About 100,000 workers lose their lives every year and another 1.5m throughout the world are permanently disabled as a result of accidents at work or occupational diseases". FINANCIAL TIMES 28/1/75.

The Plastics and Petro-Chemical industries are a case in point. After the war they rushed in to satisfy the consumers insatiable demand for cheap but handsome looking furnishings. The drabness of life had to be relieved with a few luxuries.

Plastics surround us in the home, they're under our feet, above our heads. We sit on them, dine off them, and go to bed on them.

Let us quote an expert on Fire Prevention "The surface spread of flame on polythene material is alarming. It is so rapid that a building becomes a blazing inferno before the occupants can escape".

"One night in June last year a stream running through the heart of Kirkby (Liverpool) burst into flames 30ft high".

"The River Alt was found by an analyst to contain arsenic, cyanide, manganese, mercury and cadmium. He said, "It is imperative that these waters should be banned to all animals and man".

KIRKBY BULLETIN. No.1.



Recently a whole family was suffocated in their own home in the Salford area when the sofa caught fire. So home is where you can be gassed in luxury or fried in fancy furnishings as luck would have it. The Petrochemical industry have produced napalm and incendiary bombs, but in our ignorance we are making our homes into comfortable incinerators.

The precautions that are taken to prevent ignition during manufacture are not taken to protect the lives of the workers, but to protect the product. Once the profits have been made, you the consumer can go to hell and burn in your own home.

Bernie Tupp



## GREEN FIGHT

The Government's much heralded Housing 'package deal' has turned out to be a bribe to the Builders and Building Societies. It takes the form of a guarantee of funds for new house mortgages, which the Government hopes will set the trowels, hammers and saws working away building the houses which the people of Britain so desperately need. The House Builders Federation, which represents the majority of home builders in the country states that until the unsold 40,000 luxury houses are off their hands, it is no deal. Most of these houses are in the South-East and price wise range from £14,000 to £24,000.

Crosland has back pedalled on nearly all his radical promises of 1974. Land Nationalisation is to be introduced very slowly by local authorities and is to be based on future and not on present needs. This gives firms like Northern Builders the green light to cash in on their huge land holdings.

Meanwhile the big builders, Laings, Wimpey, Taylor Woodrow etc, can't be expected to take a cut in profits. So what is Britain's loss is the oil-rich countries gain. All the big builders are falling over themselves to win huge housing contracts from Iran, Saudi Arabia etc.

Cont. From Page 3.

For years management has tried to get workers to do their job for them to get the workers to discipline themselves. Personnel management is dedicated to search for ways to keep workers highly motivated and productive.

"One of the very first requirements for a man who is fit to handle pig iron as a regular occupation is that he shall be so stupid and phlegmatic that he must more nearly resemble an ox than any other type of animal.

Frederick W. Taylor: the originator of the assembly line system."

F.W. Taylor, through his now famous time-motion studies, fostered the development of the assembly line. As we all know the production process is broken down into its smallest units, thereby forcing workers to move as quickly as possible. Taylor assumed that work-people were stupid and psychologically suited to dull repetitive work. However boredom is not conducive to a high quality of workmanship.

Much to managements dismay all incentives do not yield the desired results, whether its pension plans, special gifts, piped music or painting the walls in attractive colours.

Nowadays, they have to try a different approach because of changes in the composition of the work-force. It is increasingly affluent and has not known hardships, it's younger and much better educated than its parents. Consequently, the bosses have to try different methods to achieve a steady growth in productivity.

These methods involve a systematic reorganisation of the work process, a number of the features are as follows that of autonomous work groups as in the Volvo plant in Sweden, to quote Mr. Gyllenhammar, president of the Volvo group of companies, "We want to bring back the concept of professional and proud craftsmanship working in small workshops, even in our auto factories". In the Gaines dog food plant in Topeka Kansas, 70 workers are divided into 6 teams, two teams a shift. A processing team unloads and then makes the product. The other team packs and despatches. Within the work group the group hierarchy is broken down, supervisory levels are done away with, except for a foreman who does the task of the rest.

Self government, team members decide work hours and work quotas, and the team give each other information on the quality of the work.

Under this heading, on an ideological level we can put co-partnership, industrial democracy in the style of Wedgwood-Benn's workers directors etc.

Removal of the various outward signs of status, to give the workers a feeling of equality, the symbols of inferiority, such as separate canteens, lavatories and parking areas.

After only a period of 18 months of operation, the Topeka plant mentioned above had overheads that were 33% lower than plants in the same line of business. The absentee rate was 9% below the average.

According to reports in Trade Journals the spirit of the place is described as "every worker a manager".

This feeling of job control has resulted in falling off in union membership in some American plants. It appears the abandonment of the assembly line has more than one advantage for the bosses.

No doubt, this new turn in management thinking will eventually find its way to Britain. Perhaps Tolstoy has the best description of this mentality when he says, "I sit on a man's back choking him and making him carry me and yet assure myself and others that I am sorry for him and wish to lighten his load by all possible means - except by getting off his back".



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# DIRECT ACTION

SYNDICALIST WORKERS FEDERATION no. 7 5p

British Section of the International Workers Association



## THE DAY MAY COME

The owning class are getting round their present difficulties, as usual, by utilising the dynamic and money of the workers. Falling profits and loss making in industry has resulted in the big banking and investment companies cutting back on industrial investment. No doubt the huge profits that were made in the price explosion of the 72-73 will keep them off the bread line for a while.

Meanwhile British workers wealth, via taxation is being used to prop up loss making but essential industries while their trade union officials are being groomed for their new role as Workers Directors, that of smoothing the path for future redundancies and plant closures.

The restructured British Leyland management board will include a number of trade union nominees but will not halt the encroachment of the time and motion experts on workers rights and job control which the rank and file car workers have built up over 50 years of struggle.

This is not the first occasion that officials of the trades union movement have been recruited into management as a way of recuperating militancy. In 1947 when the 'Utilities' Gas, Water and Electricity were nationalised union officials became management overnight, whilst new branch officials were recruited from under foremen a notoriously time serving class of worker. The resulting loss of militancy in these industries has taken 25 years to overcome.

Cont. On Page 8.

It is now at the time of writing 7/4/75. thirteen weeks since the Glasgow dustcart drivers went on strike to achieve parity of wages with their counterparts in the private sector of industry. In the interests of the so called social contract between the labour government and the trade union top brass the dustcart drivers after being on strike last year agreed to return to work with the promise of more money. The Labour council broke its promise. The dustmen reacted by once more withdrawing their labour. Unfortunately like most sections of the working class these municipal workers are divided and subdivided by their respective unions. Consequently from the start they were in a weak position. Their workmates, the binmen and maintenance men continued to work on. Plastic bags were distributed to the general public to contain refuse. However, in spite of this the dustcart drivers were determined. But the lackeys of the government were not idle. The press and T.V. were mounting their propaganda campaign against the strikers. Day by day the public were being spoon fed with the inevitable health hazards. The hypocrisy of it all would make one vomit. As if the health hazards in large cities like Glasgow are not forever with us. Don't we have health hazards due industrial pollution: to bad housing and lack of proper sanitation, don't we have them especially among old people due to lack of fuel and sufficient nourishment, don't we have the hazards of disease in all our big cities due to housing slums and industrial processes? We all know the answer to that although ignored by many.

On the ninth week of the strike after the anti-strike campaign had borne fruit the Labour council had said that something drastic must be done or soon the rats would be showing their noses in daylight. The council called upon the government to use troops to break the strike but of course under the pretext that this was to prevent a health hazard.

The council was right, the rats did show their noses. They forgot to say of course that many of them would only have two legs.

The troops first went into their strike breaking action on the 18th. March and were confronted by pickets. On Wednesday 19th. pickets at the Dawsholm incinerator were joined by stewards from Rolls Royce Hillington and from Yarrow of Scotstoun West. Engineers and labourers at Polmadie refused to cooperate with the army and left the incinerator station. On Thursday 20th. maintenance engineers at Dawsholm refused to cooperate with the troops. In Partick, pickets were successful in disuading contractors from removing refuse from a tip. Due to effective picketing and non-cooperation by workers at the incinerators the troops were forced to dump refuse on the fringes of the city. The sad side of the matter was that the binmen who incidentally are also entitled to more money; (they collect the rubbish whilst the drivers remain seated in their cabs) continued to work on and finally cooperated with the troops. Trade union officials in

general identifying themselves to a greater or lesser degree with Labour government policy have been another impediment to gaining solidarity action much needed since the intervention of the troops. The strike now at time of writing seems to be dying a natural death. Maintenance workers are returning to work and sadly to say the majority of other trade unionists in Glasgow seem to be disinterested and seem to have accepted the ballyhoo of the yellow press.

Having said that there is one thing which may shake Glasgow trade unionists from their slumbers. And that is if the dustcart drivers retain their determination now that council drivers in Dundee, Gourock, Greenock, Port Glasgow and Bellshill decided to have a sympathetic strike. For in such a situation more army personnel would be necessary. Some M.P.'s don't exactly think that it's unlikely that more troops may have to be used. To mention just one Tory M.P. for Cathcart Glasgow seems to think the army should extend its strike breaking activity by intervening in Glasgow corporations electricians wage dispute. The electricians are on a similar dispute as the dustmen. They want parity of wages with their counterparts in private industry. If troops are used in the above mentioned areas and against the electricians surely other trade unionists must awaken and realize that troops are most likely to be used against them when on dispute.

Cont on Page 7.



DOCKERS VICTORY

The recent London Docks strike which ended without any apparent concession from the Port Employers has nevertheless signalled a major victory for the Dockers in their long fight to obtain similar pay and conditions in the Inland Container depots as the Dockers have won in the actual port areas. The Government is now committed to including previously unregistered ports in the new "Dockers Charter" as well as giving the Dockers union rights in container depots up to 5 miles from the actual port area. This will help to bring the "Lump" situation in the smaller ports, in which employers use gangs of casual labour who act as scabs when employers move ships to their ports during a dispute, to an end.

The Dockers action must be seen as a consequence of the dwindling number of dock jobs due to the rapid containerisation of ship cargoes in recent years. As far back as 1970 firms such as Unigate had begun to close down river wharves and open up container depots further inland at which they employed non-union labour at less than union rates. The struggle is not yet over. In the Midlands and elsewhere there are huge container depots which have yet to agree to the dockers demand for parity on pay and working conditions. This is a principled struggle. The London Dockers are fighting to protect their own jobs and to improve the lot of their fellow workers elsewhere.

# MAY DAY

And the tanks will roll in the Red Square and the Social Democratic politicians of the Free World will stand hard hat in hand as the regimented regiments of the working class indifference parade behind the national flags and the prostituted trade union banners of a working class militancy absent on parade. For it is May Day and governments and Trade Union bureaucrats demand this show of loyalty from a class they hate, despise or loath every other day of the year. Yet comrades we must march and always let our banners wave as the battle flags of a united working class and let those in authority who order these charades learn that we march as free workers and if we are denied our protesting place in the ranks behind the ancient fluttering glories of the past then let us go back to first principles and chalk up our own crude banners. Do not be downhearted if our numbers are few for we shall triumph and be betrayed for it is the struggle that will unite us for behind the Church Universal is the Church Militant and behind and before them is the Church Primitive and that my comrades is our eternal and only battle field for we are the companions of the left hand of God. In 1833 Robert Owen appointed May 1st. as the beginning of the millennium and over a hundred years later Robert we are still waiting but we are in good heart. In 1889 the first Paris congress of the second Socialist international decided May the first for the annual international celebrations and give or take a world war that resolution has been honoured.

The movers of the motion had intended that we the workers should by Direct Action enforce a holiday on May 1st. no matter what day of the week it fell on and in Europe our working class comrades attempted a one day strike and the Establishment honoured them by ordering the police to break up their marches and parades but governments learn slowly, slowly and by the simple Machiavellian ploy of declaring the day a public holiday thereby, as in north America, gelding the stallion of working class defiance and or protest. In 1890 or 1892 according to differing authorities London stood in witness of its first Labour May Day demonstration but my comrades the craft unions and the banners of the Superior Working Class dominated the parade, for it was never a march.

Always absent was the unskilled casual workers yet it was the Bryant and May match girls, starvation paid, ill used and of the British untouchables whose strike in July 1888 was responsible so wrote Engels, for 'the entire avalanche to follow', of industrial warfare between the proletarian working class and the middle class employers. On the 13th. of August 1889 a small number of day labourers struck work at the South West Indian Docks and Tillet and Burns floated into leadership as the great dock strike began and thousands of men marched but remember comrades the first march saw 41 banners and 'some were no more than red rags on poles'.

Let us honour Ben Tillett as the 'Dockers Leader' but always remember that when the German anarchist Rudolf Rocker asked our Ben what he thought of the mass of exploited and rejected slum workers who were but factory fodder for the crowded sweat shops Tillett considered them beyond the pale and a threat to 'honest labour'. "In times of revolution", said Tillett, "it was from these quagmires of degradation that the hyenas of the revolution emerge. A socialist government would therefore have to think of ways and means to get rid of this scum, false pity for them would harm the socialist cause". Ben was no mean prophet and they called it National Socialism and the concentration camp and the gas chamber was to sterilise the Corporate State of industrial disharmony with a workers car, a neat Frau haunting mass produced brick homes or an ex KGB boss for a trade union leadership gaffer, a Hero of the Father Land medal for Time and Motion beyond the call of duty and a place in the official parade behind the latest rocket launcher for those who conformed or surrendered. Our place is in the ranks of the working class my comrades but with those who are rejected by a newly created working class meritocracy. It is along side the Indian worker struggling, as they had to struggle in the home land that drove them out, for the right to human dignity. The scrubbers, the clæners

Cont. On Page 8.

## DUREXploitation

One of the most profitable monopolies in Britain is the London Rubber Company, the makers of Durex. Recently they issued a High Court writ against their competitor Surex Ltd. This was to stop them using the sales slogan, "why pay Durex prices?"

The cost to manufacture a packet of Three Durex (Featherlite) is less than one old farthing (.21p.). However, by the time you buy them over the counter, they cost 25p! whoever is prepared to sell them can get a rake off up to 15p. a packet.

The London Rubber Company doesn't do all that bad either. Their cut works out at 4½p. Of course they are sold by the million.

Some of the methods used by L.R.C. to retain in their dominant position in the market are real sharp practices. They range from damaging the machines of rivals to the setting up of dummy organisations such as the Genetic Study, which spreads propaganda against products made by competitors. Another trick of the trade is to buy up the French letters of rival firms from retailers and replace them with their own.

In a capitalist society everything that we use is sold for a profit, all needs, all our pleasures are gist to the mill. We are not arguing for fair competition are apologising for the Monopolies Commission. What we want is an end to the profit system. We want a society where human needs and desires are satisfied for their own sake, and not used to make a fortune for the shareholders.



# WOMENS CAUSE

'Women: their oppression and their cause'.  
printed and published by

Socialist Union, 16 Abbeyfield Rd,  
Dunscroft,  
Doncaster,  
No price given.

"Now, woman is confronted with the necessity of emancipating herself from emancipation, if she really desires to be free. This may sound paradoxical, but is, nevertheless, only too true".

EMMA GOLDMAN

The Socialist Union describe themselves as a small revolutionary socialist group of miners engineers, labourers and housewives. They are based in the north east and are developing contacts nationally and with North America, The Revolutionary Communist League. This pamphlet was presented to state the views of the Socialist Union on the oppression and struggle of women. They felt this necessary as they had failed to deal with it in their manifesto.

The pamphlet opens with an attack on the feminist movements. They feel it necessary to counter the feminists attitudes and pose a socialist view point on the oppression of women within the context of the class struggle. Much of the socialist left are accused of clinging to the petit-bourgeois notions of the feminist and Womens Liberation Movements, solely because they want to be seen to be supporting womens struggle. These people are "failing in their duty as socialists". They are told that they must "denounce these movements as being middle class orientated and more concerned with personal liberation and opportunity and the belittling of the male sex than with the plight of the millions of working class women". (These middle classes are such a problem, even in revolutionary movements! They pop up everywhere like that Karl whats his as second class citizens by society. No doubt that society is sexless. This is seen in education, job opportunities as sex objects and within marriage. On the other hand, men of course are certainly not privileged, as capitalism represses the whole working class. Women therefore are doubly exploited. Perhaps that is why some feel the need of their own organisations.

Although the pamphlet states that women should fight against their oppression, the emphasis must be towards the struggle against the capitalist system, which is the origin of male dominance. The role of woman in the family being a product of private property. Women it is said may make some gains under this system but will never be really free from oppression and inequality until it is overthrown. This is the reason, they feel that feminists ideas must be "shown for what they are, political cul-de-sacs which lead women away from struggling against their real oppressor the capitalist system". Praise is given for the advances made by women in socialist nations i.e. "the fourteen worker states were capitalism has already been defeated and replaced by socially and economically superior systems based on the common ownership". etc. No mention here of the abortion controversy in the U.S.S.R.

The exploitation of women as cheap labour is disgusting. This, it is explained, stems from the idea that women are second class beings, unequal to men both mentally and physically. Capitalism has used the existing bias against women to boost profits. It seeks also to divide the working class, men from women. As far as workers organisations are concerned we are told that one in every four trade unionists is a woman, yet most full time union officials are men. This of course is common in all organisations within this male-dominated society.

In my opinion the main reason for this pamphlet is to give a clear and straight forward analysis of society in Marxists terms. This includes the oppression of women and what they should do about it within the class struggle. The suggested (albeit for them reformist) actions are similar to lots of those put forward by the womens movement. The difference to me seems that here, women, especially those in key industries, are thought of as fodder to help win the class struggle. Of course taking over the economic control of society is of prime importance- but people are individuals. At the same time as fighting for economic control of their lives, they must be able to pursue freedom through their own personal liberation. To do this they must feel free to form separate organisations were necessary. We all know the dangers of merely changing the ownership of the means of production.

I would like to say that although I think women do need separate organisations I agree there maybe a danger of isolation. It seems a good idea to get together as women politically e.g. London Womens Anarchist Group. otherwise to find some time to spend with the male dominated political groups.

ANN

Remember in 1973 the labour fakirs in Glasgow council called for troops to be used in the firemen's strike? Despite this the firemen were successful. Their type of work was just too much for the troops.

Both Conservative and Labour governments have quite a record for using the military and the police and the judiciary which are the blood and sinews of class rule. Quite a large volume would be necessary to illustrate this in full. So only the solidarity of rank and file trade unionists can overcome the strike breaking action of troops.

It must be remembered that in spite of the use of troops trade union officials have virtually turned a blind eye and the strike remains unofficial.

The Glasgow dustmen are to have a mass meeting in the Kingston Hall on Wednesday 9th.

The shop stewards committee are bitter about having failed in a last attempt to persuade the corporation to have local negotiations on their £5 a week pay claim following the failure to reach agreement at national level. This is not surprising since the corporation had promised to negotiate at local level should talks at national level fail. Subsequently the corporation violated their promise which is also not surprising to this writer. The situation will be conveyed to the men at their mass meeting on Wednesday.

And so the death knell has sounded: Today Wednesday 9/4/75 at the mass meeting of dustmen it was decided by an overwhelming majority to return to work on Monday 14th.

Dan Duffy of the strike committee stressed that the corporation had played a disgusting role in the whole affair. The men had decided to end their strike on a recommendation by their committee.

Dan Duffy said that the men will have a great deal of bitterness and disgust on returning to work. They will be returning with no wage increase, no improved conditions, no promise for the future.

The only condition they are asking for is that the troops be moved out before they move in.

To say the men will be bitter is an understatement. For they have been stabbed in the back by the official trade union movement. A few initial lessons will have to be learned. They will have to avoid constitutional black-legging by some means or another. As a first step to this they must start thinking about obliterating trade union barriers, craft or otherwise. The ideal would be to get organised in one all embracing union of all municipal workers without high paid officials. Even if it means dual unionism starting from scratch. And the old conventional methods of striking may have to be given second thought. Instead of going on the cobblestones new strike methods must be seriously considered. In this case the old method of going on the street has failed miserably.

The official trade union movement has to be thanked for that.

R. L.



# HOME FRONT

7

Recently Jo Grimond has been (sic) saying that local Councils are no good at running their housing Departments. Anyhow Uncle Joe's solution is that Councils should either sell their homes to their tenants or should hand over the running of estates to tenants co-operatives.

His first solution is absurd simply because few, if any, Council tenants will be able to afford to make the necessary mortgage repayments or even to raise a mortgage. I remember, from working in a council mortgage department, that to get a mortgage of about £8,000 a person needed to be earning approximately £50 a week or more depending upon how his/her income was made up, (i.e. overtime, bonus etc) and don't forget that interest rates are now higher by about 3% or 4% and house prices have risen. Of course this is not taking into consideration the present high unemployment rate and the number of people laid off on a 3 day week or more.

Anyhow let us turn to Uncle Jo's second solution, the handing over of the running of council estates to 'Tenants Co-operatives'. On the face of it, it looks like a good idea in fact I'm sure that tenants co-operatives would be better at running their own estates after all they can't be run any worse than they are now. There's also the fact that council tenants will have more control over their own lives.

Let's however examine what Uncle Jo means by 'tenants co-operatives'. I get the impression that he means some sort of tame tenants association that will work hand in hand with the local council. In other words the council collects the rent and in return the co-operative does the maintenance work on their estates thus helping the council to spend less money on its tenants for the privilege of spending more money on their own repairs. Obviously this is about as far away from people controlling their own streets as nationalisation is from Workers Control of industry.

Perhaps I'm wrong about Uncle Jo's intentions in which case he won't mind if council tenants refuse to pay rent or rates and genuinely control their own lives - or would he. You don't need 3 guesses to know who will be among the first to call for a return to 'law and order', 'moderation' and the other catch phrases used during the rent strikes against the Housing Finance Act that the Tories introduced a few years back.

## CONCERT/GALA

at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1  
(nearest tube station: Holborn)

SATURDAY, MAY 3rd

## caretaker flop

By now most workers have come in contact or conflict with work study engineers. When work study was first introduced it was called time and motion. But as is common with the unpleasant realities of our working lives, different terms are used to gloss them over. Being made redundant is still the 'sack', and work study is still time and motion.

However, some of the mobile caretakers on the Greater London Council wher faced with these work study engineers have simply stayed put. This action, or should it be called inaction, has so far prevented further studies being taken. After about an hour the work study men leave.

These mobile caretakers covering three estates in Battersea are objecting to being watched, or snooped upon. So far the action has been effective.

But the idea of the mobile caretakers was the brain child of the work study engineers of County Hall. In their drive for "efficiency" their plans of re-organisation have meant a deterioration in the up keep and cleanliness of estates with a marked increase in vandalism. When the mobile caretakers scheme was first discussed, the work study engineers claimed that the caretakers visiting an estate who wasn't a resident would help to keep down vandalism. The mobile caretakers would act and appear as a kind of "policeforce". Just the opposite has happened. The personal contact between tenant and caretaker has been lost. The little complaints and repairs, like blocked sinks and drains etc, which the caretakers took care of, are no longer done, except after the inevitable delay by the maintainance gangs.

Nowdays the mobile caretaker turns up in his truck with three or four men armed with brooms and shovels to sweep up the yards and maintain the rubbish chutes. Because they have been work studied they rush round trying to earn some bonus. As a result the estates are far from clean.

As with so many aspects of our lives the mobile caretaker scheme depersonalises relationships. The caretaker no longer belongs as apart of an estate and does not share its problems as he did when he lived there.

But as far as the work study engineers are concerned, people are mere units of production. The caretakers on the G.L.C. have become to the tenants faceless 'policemen'.

In their drive for so called efficiency the work study engineers scheme has added to the vandalism that exists on G.L.C. estates. They've also added to the fear that many of the older tenants feel.

Certainly everything was far from well on the estates with resident caretakers. Some

were good while others refused to help anyone in need. But given the remoteness and the inhuman way tenants are treated by the G.L.C. its understandable there is so much vandalism. Huge estates exist, but without any play facilities for the children. When new estates are built or modernised, the last thing the G.L.C. think of including is a community centre for tenants to use for social activities.

But as syndicalists have pointed out before, we expect little or nothing from those in authority, whether at work or from landlords. People have to act for themselves and create their own organisations to bring about improvements and change to their daily lives.

P.T.



# SWF

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Cont. From Page 3.

yea all those forced to clean up society's shit for the right to eat its leavings. And my comrades, as they move up into the working class world of shallow security they will reject us but it is no matter for they have no obligation to fight our battle but, nay for as long as, Ben Tillett's 'scum' exist these are our companions in battle with "no more than red rags on poles" for our battle flag and let our presence in the streets with a single red rag mark May Day as the day of revolt.

A.M.

Cont. From Page 1.

At the moment most union leaders are professional executives who have got to the top through a process of political infighting which inevitably pervades the whole trade union structure resulting in a separation of aims between the officials of the union and their supposed employers, the rank and file membership. Syndicalists believe that the best way to build up a union leadership which would truly reflect the members needs is the adoption of a system under which all officials are drawn from the membership of the union itself, and in which all policy decisions are subject to a rank and file endorsement mandate. The corollary to this of course is that the total union membership involves itself in union activities. Only when this comes into being shall we be on the road to true social ownership.

## freedom

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# DIRECT ACTION

no. 8

SYNDICALIST WORKERS FEDERATION

5p

British Section of the International Workers Association



## PAY AS YOU LEARN

Now that Britain has safely retained inside the European big business league, British workers have been told by the Gnomes of Zurich as to what they can expect as their share of the benefits to come from our continuing membership of the Common Market. The Bank of International Settlement has stated quite bluntly that higher levels of unemployment plus a real drop in our standard of living for a period of up to 10 years will be necessary before British industry will be competitive with the other members of the Market.

This prospect is causing no concern in the boss class, they're more worried about losing some of their power and privilege if the Industry Bill is passed in its original form. They are also engaging in a quiet form of asset stripping by distributing funds, which should have been reinvested in their own industry, as dividends to the shareholders.

Most of this money is finding its way into the Building Societies. Although this has eased the mortgage problems for some people

it has also caused house prices to start rising again without any increase in the number of houses being built. This swells the profit of the investor without any effort on their part but only at the expense of workers jobs which are now being lost at the rate of 2,000 each week.

When the time comes to re-flate a cheaper Britain we may be sure that it will be the workers who will be called on to pay the cost through organisations such as the National Development Board. Although it will be the ordinary taxpayers money which pays the piper it will once again be the industrialists and share owners who will be calling out the only tune they know. The ting-ting of a cash register.

If this state of affairs is not to go on for ever the workers must prepare their own permanent takeover bid. They already make everything, they already pay for everything. The next and final step is to manage everything.

# more EQUAL than others

Some 20 odd years ago I read George Orwell's fantasia "Animal Farm" in which he describes how animals in an imaginary farm owned by an imaginary farmer Brown grew disgusted with their lot and revolt. They feel that they have been exploited too long by humans and that if they take over the farm they will have justifiably got rid of a parasitical growth upon their backs and earned a vindictive free access to the means of life. The pigs are considered to be their leaders as some old pig had been presumably endowed with great intellect and two other pigs capable of assimilating its teachings, although they had some diversity of interpretations. One interpretation became majority opinion and was carried. Hence a charter was drawn up in keeping with this. The principles accepted by the animals were printed and posted for all to see on the farm. There were quite a number of clauses which included

Four legs are good, two legs bad.

All animals are equal.

Orwell seems to try to convey in this writers opinion that the old pig was Karl Marx and the other two pigs viewing for each others views to be accepted were Stalin and Trotsky. In other words it seems to be an analogy of the Russian Revolution and counter-revolution. Because as time goes on one pig leader is forced out of the farm by the other due to unpalatable expressions and due to acceptance by the majority of animals to decisions taken by the pigs rather than by general assembly of all with the resulting unsavoury conclusions. Control is usurped by an elite. The old charter in time is modified month by month until it reads entirely different from the original. For example the principle of "all animals are equal" finally reads "all animals are equal but some are more equal than others". Because "Animal Farm" (so the theme continues) is surrounded by other farms still in the hands of humans some compromises have to be made and some negotiations have to take place between the pigs of "Animal Farm" and the humans of other farms. The animals accept this. However, after a few decades of compromises, temporary alliances, useful co-existence and glaring deceit the animals become strongly suspect. One evening when the pigs are in conference with the humans some curious animals decided to stealthily creep up and have a peek through the windows of the conference hall. They looked and then looked at each other meaningfully, they could not distinguish the pigs from the humans.

Now, when I observe the antics of some trade union officials and politicians it is reminiscent of my reading of "Animal Farm" twenty odd years ago which merely substantiated even then my earlier convictions.

If one would read "Animal Farm" now and observe what's going on in political and trade union circles, similarities could hardly be unnoticed. Just as the animals could not distinguish between the pigs and humans in "Animal

Farm" it is difficult now to distinguish between trade union officials and employers and labour politicians and others.

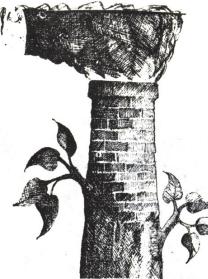
Of course avowed syndicalists and anarchists have been saying this for decades. They have stated that this was the inevitable outcome of adopting unsound principles: It's not merely surplus value (or exploitation of the worker) which as at the root of all our social ills as socialist economists of the Marxian school maintain. It is the accumulation of surplus value (unpaid wages of the worker) plus the fact that surplus value is able to exist. And it is only able to exist through the strong arm of the law. In other words the legal sanction of exploitation by the state or government is necessary for the continuance of our class divided society. Government is still the executive committee of the ruling class. Therefore collaboration with government or flirtation with political parties leads to disaster for the working class. For the present dear reader disregard theories and look at facts; observe the antics of your 'leaders' or should I say 'misleaders'?

Hugh Scanlon, boss of the engineering union in recent months instructed his members to cross a picket line of electricians during an electricians strike.

Our same Hugh recently told the staff of his union who were in dispute to return to work before he would negotiate with them. It is reported that our Hugh even vaulted a hedge breaking the picket lines of his staff. Do not the employers tell workers to return to work in order to negotiate? Is this not reminiscent of the pigs and humans in "Animal Farm".

Chancellor of the Exchequer Dennis Healey made it undisputedly plain the other week that the social contract between government and unions means lower wages. He said, "it is for better that more people should work even if it means accepting lower wages on average than that those lucky enough to keep their jobs should scoop the pool while millions are living on the dole. That is the meaning of the social contract. Trade union leaders express the same sentiments. "To break the social contract", they say, "is to price yourself out of a job". What do employers say? precisely the same. A few weeks ago "our" prime minister regarding the social contract stated that we must now expect to do a fair days work for a fair days pay: a good old fashioned conservative motto. Wedgy Benn, darling of the left speaks of workers participation. Workers pacification would perhaps be more appropriate for Benn urges British Leyland workers to hold back on wage demands. Michael Foot another sweetheart of the left uses similar language: He says, "wages should not be pressed to such a degree that they would increase the risk of unemployment".

Jack Jones of T.G.W.U. leader once called the militant twin of Hugh Scanlon stated recently that there must be equal sacrifices. In this case, some will be more 'unequal than others: Odours of "Animal Farm". R LYNN



## A BREATH OF AIR

The mounds of uncollected rubbish which have been piling up in British cities of late can be seen as an obvious danger to public health. Less obvious, is the terrible danger to which the whole population is being increasingly exposed as a result of the dumping of industrial waste and the indiscriminate discharge of pollutants into the atmosphere.

Most people are aware of the suffering caused by the disease, pneumoconiosis. Few however are aware that the same disease is contracted by quarry workers as well as miners. Cotton-spinners, China clay and asbestos workers amo amongst others. Asbestos workers also have a high incidence of cancer.

Under modern industrial conditions, not only the workers themselves, but their families as well are exposed to toxic waste poisoning.

A few years ago, when the Avonmouth Lead Smelter had to close down due to the atmospheric pollution it had caused. Some children had to be evacuated from the area until the level of lead particles in the air had fallen. Concentrations of lead in childrens' bloodstreams can cause cancer and mental retardation.

Nearly everyone in Britain has had experience of breathing in the pungent fumes which are expelled from the chimneys of chemical plants. How many are aware of that poisonous substances from these fumes fall on to arable land which in turn supplies our food , and reservoir from which comes drinking water.

The water in Lake Superior has turned a cloudy green over the last five years due to pollution from a nearby asbestos plant. Previously the lake had had a reputation as a supply of excellent drinking water for the surrounding populace. The company which runs the plant claims that it would cost them too much to change their extraction process. Meanwhile, the local people are being slowly poisoned and their children run an increasing risk of incurring cancer.

The recent death of a driver at Pitsea waste tip in Essex highlights the dangers

involved while handling toxic waste, but the industrial world deadly poisons mercury, arsenic, cyanide etc are being dumped into disused mines and quarries or sunk into the sea. Everyday industrial effluent seeps into our rivers contaminating both natural life and drinking water. Unless something is done to reverse this process a large scale disaster must inevitably occur. In lots of cases industrial management deliberately play down the dangers involved. They have been known to conceal the true nature of loads from the drivers concerned. They also resort to subterfuge in order to obtain planning permission for more Tips. Two executives of 'Redland Purle' which operates the Pitsea Tip recently joined the "Northumberland Wildlife Trust" in order to influence planning permission for a new toxic waste tip in the North East.

Today management, local government and trade unions bureaucracies work together on many issues and very often the ensuing relationships inhibit them from speaking out on issues such as has been outlined above. What is needed to alter this situation is the formation of local residents associations which are not tied to the apron strings of governmental satraps. When these associations are strong and vociferous enough the peoples needs will be taken into account, until then we are all voting fodder in an increasingly polluted society.

Willie Allin.

### PRESS FUND

DONATIONS N.W. Workers£1 D.P.M/cr £1.  
Anon M/CR £10  
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M/CR R.M.£1 D.T.£1 A.P.£2 A.B.£1 D.P.£1

The Syndicalist Workers Federation has now acquired an Off-set Litho printing press. However we have had to borrow the money to pay for it as well as the fact that the press will have running expenses(i,e, paper and ink).

We are therefore asking you to dig deep in your pockets and to send us anything you can. It goes without saying that all donations will be gratefully received.

DIRECT ACTION COLLECTIVE.

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## ITALY

Cde Marini has had his appeal for provisional liberty turned down by the Court. Readers of "Direct Action" will remember that Marini is serving a sentence of 12 years for defending himself in an attack by the fascist thugs of M.S.I.

**SWF**

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3

# THE SACK

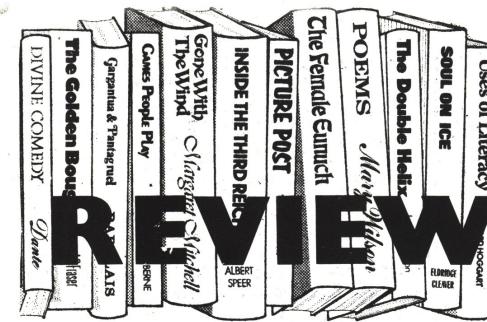
Millions of British trade unionists now taking part in the last rounds of the present wages fight will soon have to prepare themselves for a more important struggle that of the right to work.

However, with exception of the last miners strike all major wage settlement of the last few years have been conditional on some form of reduction of the workforce. These conditions are often disguised or blurred by such terms as voluntary or phased out redundancy. Another of the bosses stratagems in job mobility. This technique was behind the recently settled strike of doorkeepers at Fords, Dagenham. The way it works is through raising the job <sup>today</sup> and putting the unneeded in the labour pool, thus saving the firm from taking on more workers to replace those who are retiring, or more commonly those who have become ill.

An even stronger menace to the workers' future is the acute shortage of jobs for the school leavers. It is estimated that of the 500,000 school leavers this summer, less than 100,000 will be in employment before the end of the year. This state of affairs has largely come about because union negotiators have been over eager to obtain the largest cash settlements, and signed what have become blank cheques for the employers to reduce their pay-rolls, as and when it suits them. In the same manner, workers have lost a number of job privileges and conditions over the last few years. Shorter meal breaks, and even in some cases their elimination is one obvious example. All these things put money in the bosses' pockets, at the expense of the workers' jobs. A short term cash settlement can never make up for the erosion of job conditions and the loss of jobs themselves.

While there can be no doubt that the amount of unemployment will rise in the immediate future. Trade unionists must take steps to it from becoming a permanent feature of our lives which could the debilitating slavery of thirties in which whole families lost their self-respect, and young people were forced to leave their home environment, and prostitute themselves in alien cities, and the armed forces.

The step that the workers must take is that of asserting rank and file control over the decisions of their union executives who at the moment act very much like bosses themselves.



If we raise the demand of workers control of the means of production, we must also advocate that we as tenants, raise the demand for the taking over the estates and their organisation by those who live on them

Tenants Take Over - By Colin Ward.  
Published by Architectural Press Ltd. £3.95p.

Approximately a Third of us live in Council housing. This usually means high rents, long delays before repairs are carried out and arbitrary rules set by a faceless bureaucracy (i.e. no ball games, no pets, no repainting the outside etc.). What is more tenants are rarely consulted about the details of improvement schemes, if they exist at all. The result of this is that many of the older, structurally sound estates are becoming slums. To make matters worse some of the newer council estates because of low standards of construction as well as long delays before repairs are actually done, are becoming slums within a few years of construction.

An example of this is the Moss Side District Centre of Manchester. Amongst other things this estate is overrun with mice and bugs which have made their homes in the cardboard and compressed straw internal walls. What is more there have been many fires there, some of which have occurred in empty flats. The internal walls are supposed to be fire resistant however it has been known for building workers to dispose of offcuts of this stuff by burning them.

According to Colin Ward the way to stop this downhill slide on the older soundly built estates, is for tenants cooperatives to buy their estates from the council and to run them for themselves. The only problem I can see with this is that Councils are not likely to sell their estates to their tenants en masse.

I do feel though that this is something that tenants should fight for, if only because their housing situation would be better. After all if we don't fight for improvements in our situation, as a class, (i.e. better wages, better houses, shorter working week etc.) we will not be fighting at all, which means that the bosses will win by default.

Anyhow it is only through the day to day struggle that people will realise the true nature of the bosses capitalist (and state capitalist) system.

Dave Thompson.

## freedom

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# BROWNED OFF

Lord George-Brown cost the "Screws of the World" (22/6/75) two million of its six million copies. Members of the National Graphical Association stopped work after they had demanded the to reply to a front page article by the Labour Lord. This demand was rejected by the management.

The good Lord in his article said that the paper was overmanned and, those who he alleged were being carried on the 'paypool' should be sacked.

We have heard a lot a in the past, about the 'freedom of speech'. It is of course, always their freedom in their press. We, the workers, who print or broadcast the propaganda are not considered

important enough to be given the chance to reply when attacked!

Enoch Powell can appear on the TV in millions of homes, without any reply from the immigrants he attacks, but let a handful of his opponents heckle him at a meeting and the media screams 'let him have free speech'.

We must congratulate the members of the N.G.A. on their fight to gain the right to reply, and support them their struggle. We hope that other workers in the media will take a similar stand when others are attacked by the propaganda machine.



## THE HONEYMOON'S OVER

Manchester, the capital of the Great Manufacturing Conurbation, up here in the North West, welcomed Mr. Anthony Crossland, Secretary for the Environment, M.P. and temporary V.I.P. on Friday the 9th. May, with three ambushes, prepared and manned by NALGO, the local government officers union.

This Minister of the Crown has made himself very unpopular by sticking his nose into their salary negotiations. So, with banners, carrying strange costic devices waving at him from all angles, he was welcomed on his arrival at Piccadilly Station; once again at the Town Hall in Albert Square, and finally at the Abraham Moss Centre which he had been invited to officially open.

After performing this arduous task the City Fathers attended to this resuscitation by entertaining him to a fine luncheon washed down with vintage wines costing £6.50p. a bottle. This little Civiv Nosh-up cost the rate payers £1,000. His gurgling belly fully filled he brightened every one up by giving an hilariously funny speech.

"The Town Hall honeymoon period is over", he cried, "No more money is available, but that doesn't mean that any of the existing services are going to be cut". he said, and with dead-pan expression on his face he went on, "You will have to do it with the same number of pound notes".

With the value of the £ falling like a stone off the top of a Municipal Housing Tower Block, how on earth are our good Civic Leaders going to avoid cuts in services? The bitter humour of this speech is only to plain to the Town Hall Clerk, who being a responsible citizen had settled last years salary claim, through N.A.L.G.O. at 13%, well within the famous Social Contract. Immediately after N.U.P.E. gained a 14½% settlement. Not much more I will agree, but when you consider that many N.U.P.E. members can work overtime and earn bonuses, which is denied the Town Hall type, the settlement was worth quite a bit

more. This was followed by a settlement of over 20% with the Teachers and then came the super bite of the apple by the Civil Service of 30% and this has been the story ever since. After being called a "Blood Sucker" by the Daily Express and the stone wall attitude by the employers, no doubt prompted by the government, the local government pen pusher gets the feeling of being 'unloved', with a strong suspicion that, once again he is going to be taken for a ride. With the usual delaying tactics and misleading statements, the negotiations are going to drag on until the Autumn Budget, when the Finance Boys in the City expect "Silly Billy" Healey to slap on a Wage Freeze. Then the Town Hall boddies will have to accept consolidation of this threshold pay plus a few bob, and scribble faster than ever, because as his older colleagues retire, and the migration to promotion takes place, fewer replacements are going to be taken on.

Bye the way there is no truth in the rumour that Anthony Crossland dined on corned beef and chips. You don't expect him to wash that down with the juice of the noble grape do you?

Nickerdemous.



FREE THE  
TWO



# AIT-IWA

## FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

Libertarian Group- Abergafenni  
anyone interested contact 31 Monmouth Rd  
Abergafenni.

The Industrial Unionist IWW No.3  
10p+5p from Freedom Bookshop or  
116 Chadderton Way, Oldham,  
Greater Manchester.

ORTUGALPORTUGALPORTUGALPORTUALPORTUGALPORTUG  
Our COMRADES of the Portuguese Anarcho-Syndicalist movement, and their fortnightly paper A Batalha need our support so that they are able to present a revolutionary alternative to the Portuguese workers. Please send MONEY, books and support to  
A BATALHA,  
Rua Angelina Vidal, 17-2-Esq  
LISBON, Portugal.

THE MANCHESTER SYNDICALIST WORKERS' federation hold weekly meetings contact the M/cr secretary for details.

LIBERTARIAN WOMENS NETWORK NEWSLETTER  
Contact Alison Malet,  
1, Lynnewood place,  
Dundee,  
Angus.

Kathy Perlo, is compiling an Anarchist Song Book. All songs to her at 3 Grange House, Highbury Grange, London N5. With music if possible. She already has the IWW song book, ta.



## CONT'D FROM PAGE 4

Posters were put up in our classroom and the kids decided to produce a paper giving the latest news on the Magnesium. They worked very hard on it and wanted everyone else to see it. It was pinned up in the school entrance hall. I had one foot in the door, the next morning when the deputy Head criticized me for a spelling mistake in the headlines!

The previous evening the managers were in the school, and one of them had read about the occupation for the first time in the kids' paper- for a local councillor he was very in tune with local affairs!

Now it's all over, people are saying that it will never be the same again in the factory. Even for the ones that have been there years, and previously felt them selves "loyal". This has been an experience which has given them a new insight into their position as workers and may be a view of the class struggle as a whole. Anyway the kids are looking forward to their back-pay in pocket money, and the money for the various school outings will be coming in with the first wage packet, after the week -in-hand, and life goes on!

THE SYNDICALIST WORKERS FEDERATION: seeks to establish a free society which will render impossible the growth of a privileged class and the exploitation of man by man. The SWF therefore advocates common ownership and workers' control of the land, industry and all means of production and distribution on the basis of voluntary co-operation. In such a society, the wage system, finance and money shall be abolished and goods produced and distributed not for profit, but according to human needs.

THE STATE: The State in all its forms, embodying authority and privilege, is the enemy of the workers and cannot exist in a free, classless society. The SWF does not therefore hope to use the state to achieve a free society, it does not seek to obtain seats in the Cabinet or in Parliament. It aims at the abolition of the State. It actively opposes all war and militarism.

CLASS STRUGGLE: The interests of the working class and those of the ruling class are directly opposed. The SWF is based on the inevitable day-to-day struggle of the workers against those who own and control the means of production and distribution, and will continue that struggle until common ownership and workers control are achieved.

DIRECT ACTION: Victory in the fight against class domination can be achieved only by direct action and solidarity of the workers themselves. The SWF rejects all Parliamentary and similar activity as deflecting the workers from the class struggle into paths of class collaboration.

ORGANISATION: To achieve a free, classless society the workers must organise. They must replace the hundreds of craft and general trade unions by syndicalist industrial unions. As an immediate step to that end, the SWF aids the formation of workers committees in all factories, mines, offices, shipyards, mills and other places of work and their development into syndicates, federated nationally. Such syndicates will be under direct rank and file control, with all delegates subject to immediate recall.

INTERNATIONALISM: The SWF, as a section of the International Workers Association, stands firm for international working class solidarity.

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